Amendment in Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998

623. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a few States running their own lotteries have framed rules, as a protective measure, to monitor and control sale of lotteries organised by other States in their territory;

(b) whether Government propose to amend the existing Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998 restricting the rule making powers of the States only to lotteries of their own State; and

(c) whether the Centre would bring about a one-time tax-at-source to be shared between the Centre and the State concerned to avoid multiple tax slabs on lotteries imposed by different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) As per available information, the State of Kerala has framed Kerala State Lotteries and on-line Lotteries (Regulation) Rules, 2003 which has been challenged by one of the State in the Supreme Court.

(b) and (c) There are no such proposals.

Review of Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958

624. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per media report, it is a fact that Government had decided to constitute a five member committee to review the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to replace AFSPA, 1958 by a new law in places where the AFSPA, 1958 is in implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) A committee headed by Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy, former judge of the Supreme Court of India has been

constituted on 19.11.2004 to review the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 as amended in 1972. Dr. S.B. Nakade, former Vice-Chancellor and Jurist; Shri P.P. Shrivastav, IAS(Retd.), former Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs; Lt. Gen. (Retd.) V.R. Reghavan, former Director General Military Operation and Shri Sanjoy Hazarika, Journalist, are the members of this Committee.

The Committee would review the provisions of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 and advise whether—

(i) To amend the provisions of the Act to bring them in consonance with the obligations of the Government towards protection of Human Rights; and

(ii) To replace the Act by a more humane Act.

The Committee would submit its report within a period of six months.

Draft Bill on Communal Harmony

625. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has sent a draft Communal Harmony Bill to Law Ministry for its vetting;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed Bill;

(c) whether any consultation have been held with the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) A draft Bill to enact a comprehensive law to deal with communal violence is under preparation. It is proposed to consult the State Governments after the Bill is prepared.